

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE ENGLISH CYCLOPEDIA.

ARTS AND SCIENCES; Or, Ninth Division of "The English Cyclopaedia," conducted by CHARLES KNIGHT, Esq., London: Bradbury, Evans, & Co. New-York: Scribner, Welford, & Co.

The old "Penny Cyclopaedia" published nearly forty years ago under the auspices of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, was, in its time, one of the most convenient and practical of all dictionaries of general information in the English language. It was, perhaps, hardly comprehensive enough for a work of such generous dimensions; "Agricultural Implements," "Agricultural Statistics" (through these are no later than 1854), "Cotton," "Corn Laws," "Acoustics," "Aberration of Light," and others of the classes to which these belong. They are valuable summaries, which would alone give the English Cyclopaedia high character, even were there less to recommend it as a general dictionary of medicine and mechanics.

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The system of cross-references can be simplified; the distribution of subjects in the departments of Geography and Natural History can be made more complete, while in some other departments convenience of reference will be consulted by pursuing just the opposite course, and collecting in one article information which is now dispersed among several. In the volumes before us, for example, the subject of Tides is divided between four different articles, namely: "Acceleration and Retardation of Tides," "Tidal Waters and Currents," "Tidal Barriers," and "Waves and Tides," the first and last of which certainly nobody studying this particular subject would ever think of looking for. We have to examine three volumes to get a good account of the British Legislature, finding a part of it under "Commons," a part under "Lords," and a part under "Parliament." Some embarrassment is also occasioned by antiquated spelling, retained since the days of the "Penny." Thus the title Era is given under "Era" and Enigma under the old form of "Enigma."

We have noticed few important omissions, except such as we may naturally expect to find supplied in the supplement, and we have marked no very serious mistakes. There is a curious error in the article "Admiral," where it is said that "the Navy of the United States of America [an officer] has just

had this rank and title conferred for his life;" the fact being that we never had an admiral till the appointment of Farragut in 1866, and then the rank was not limited to a single life, but was permanent.

There is an article on "Thrush," a disease of children, but none on the very common and very different disease of the same name to which horses are subject. The articles on substances used as medical remedies do not as a general thing allude to the homeopathic practice, which applies them to purposes very different from the old school. Acetone, Arsenic, Bryonia, and so on, are largely used by both schools, but in radically opposite ways; yet the Cyclopaedia mentions only the old, Belladonna and

Pompea, which are common and very important

Hahnemannic remedies, are not mentioned at all, or at any rate not in their alphabetical place. Passing over these defects, however, it is a much pleasanter task to study the positive excellencies of the book, and especially the completeness with which almost all the leading topics are discussed. As specimens of the best qualities of the work, we can do no more than point to the various articles on Agriculture—"Agricultural Implements," "Agricultural Statistics" (though these are no later than 1854), "Cotton," "Corn Laws," "Acoustics," "Aberration of Light," and others of the classes to which these belong. They are valuable summaries, which would alone give the English Cyclopaedia high character, even were there less to recommend it as a general dictionary of medicine and mechanics.

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